

The Federal Government this year is spending \$6,500 on behalf of every man, woman and child in the United States of America. So just to put this in perspective, \$6,500 for every man, woman, and child in America. A family of five like mine, the Federal Government is spending over \$30,000 on behalf of that family of five like mine.

You know, a couple of other things that I think are important is you talked about the concept of need versus want, and I always like to go through what happens if you find a new program that we really need to do in America and you have got this frozen discretionary spending or you are trying to keep spending from going up. I think our vision for the future is that, when you find a new program that is legitimately necessary; for example, we have passed welfare reform last year. That means many women are leaving the welfare rolls and going into the work force, and that is a good outcome. But when they go into that work force, they are at the bottom end of the pay scale in some cases, and we want to see opportunities for them to move up the pay scale. But when they start they might be at \$6 an hour or \$5.50 an hour, and that does not add up real fast to how many dollars are coming home.

We also just found out that women in their forties should have mammograms. So these folks that have left the welfare roll and done the right thing, gone into the work force, they are able to work, so they have now taken a \$6-an-hour job. We just found out that, if they are in their forties, they should have a mammogram. Well, they qualify for Medicaid, so the health insurance is there to provide them with health care, but the money is not in the Medicaid Program currently to pay for the mammogram that we have now found out that this working poor should have.

So what do you do about that? Our vision includes things like, when you find something like that that you need to do, you find another program that you do not need to do, and let me give you an example how that might work.

Mr. Speaker, we put the money in for the mammograms, then we go into our Russian monkeys in space program and say we are not going to go into the taxpayers' pocket and take money out of their pocket and send it to Russia to launch monkeys into space anymore. That \$35 million instead gets redirected over into the Medicaid Program so we can now fund a program that we find to be worthwhile.

Mr. COBURN. It is a matter of making judgments as to what our priorities are and how do we best benefit ourself, and once we assume and know we can balance the budget, that is the hard work of Congress, and as it should be.

I want to thank you for joining me in this today, and I would want the American public to leave this discussion knowing that it is possible to balance the budget, it is possible to pay off the debt, it is possible to live up to the commitments that we have made in

Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare, and welfare and at the same time secure the future for the next generation.

WHALING AND WHALE POPULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose yet another proposal to hunt and kill gray whales along the coast of Washington State and Canada. It has recently come to my attention that the Nuu-Chah-Nulth tribe of British Columbia is planning to hunt whales for the first time in 70 years. Last year tribes from Washington State proposed a whale hunt off the Washington coast, but their petition was denied by the International Whaling Commission after they were notified of a resolution in opposition passed unanimously by the House Resources Committee. The human and economic effects as well as the impacts on whales need to be seriously considered before anyone decides to reopen commercial whaling off the west coast of the United States and Canada.

My district includes the San Juan Islands, and that borders Canada and Vancouver Island near where the proposed Canadian hunt is to take place. The whale watching industry and tourism are among the main economic forces in this area, and they generate between \$15 and \$20 million per year in revenue. Now this is not insignificant, the whale watching. The thousands who come to our region to visit and see the whales each year should be able to enjoy these animals, and the people of this region, many of whom are my constituents, should be allowed to operate their businesses and thrive on the presence of these unique creatures.

These whales have become like pets. Lots and lots of boats go out to see them. They are not afraid of boats, they are used to boats. They are very trusting. They are very smart animals. And once commercial whaling, hunting of gray whales, begins, their demeanor will soon change, and they will not allow a boat to get anywhere near them. Thus a \$15 to \$20 million whale watching business will be decimated just for the personal profit of a few tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that once tribes resume commercial whaling, even on a limited basis, the large profits will increase pressure for an even greater hunt. As a result, the whales will be driven further away. As we know, commercial whaling is what drove most whale species to the brink of extinction around the turn of the century, and our country still suffers a guilt from that. Now that the whale populations are beginning to grow, some feel that it is time to resume commercial whale hunting.

Mr. Speaker, it is not time to set sail and hunt or disrupt our fragile whale

populations. My concern is not only for the people who benefit from the whale watching industry. I am also disturbed by the alliance of these tribes with the Norwegian and Japanese whaling industries.

Just 2 years ago the whale was removed from the endangered species list at the insistence of some Native American tribes, and Native American groups in the United States and Canada, as well as the international whaling industry, have eyed the whales as a lucrative commercial venture. Having a whale hunt for food, subsistence or preservation of a genuine cultural tradition is arguable, but allowing whaling as a precursor to reviving worldwide whaling industry is unacceptable. One gray whale can bring as much as \$1 million in Norway or Japan, and these whale merchants are fully aware of the profit potential. For example, the international whaling industry has offered to fully outfit the tribes with state-of-the-art equipment like boats, explosive harpoons, and so forth, if they are allowed to hunt.

Mr. Speaker, that does not sound like traditional ceremonial whaling in hollowed out canoes. Furthermore, it seems to clearly indicate to me that the whaling industry perceives whaling by tribes as a prime opportunity to expand their own hunting.

The Seattle Times reported on April 13, and I quote:

The proposed hunt is allied with efforts by the commercial interests in Japan and Norway that hope to turn the tide against anti-whaling sentiment by proposing what they call community-based whaling among indigenous people for cultural, dietary and economic reasons.

Again, I must question the validity of the proposal and the motivations behind a renewed commercial whale harvest. In fact, the fact that many whales are creatures that routinely migrate the globe, and we are talking there about the big whales, the others, not the gray whales, but they routinely migrate around the globe. They demand a consistent international policy. If a few native groups are allowed to harvest whales, then Japan and Norway would deserve and will demand the same. Such a policy will surely lead to a drastic reduction in the world whale populations.

Mr. Speaker, the grim history of commercial whaling should not be reenacted, and I will do my best to see that it is not.

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order of earlier today concerning the gentleman from California [Mr. TORRES] be vacated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.